

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

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Glen Canyon News Release

Helicopter Crashes on Top of Houseboat

Page, AZ – On October 2, 2007, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Glen Canyon National Recreation Area dispatch received a call stating that a helicopter had crashed on a houseboat located in the mouth of Last Chance Bay on Lake Powell. National Park Service rangers and fire fighters quickly responded by boat.

As the pilot was taking off from the beached houseboat, the Robinson 44 helicopter slammed back down onto the houseboat. It appears that the rear tie down strap was not removed prior to take-off. The experienced pilot frequently flies to and from his 75-foot houseboat, which is equipped to support the helicopter.

The passenger was flown by Classic Lifeguard Helicopter to Flagstaff Medical Center for traumatic injuries while the pilot declined medical treatment. The passenger has since been released from the hospital.

The crash resulted in a significant amount of fuel leaking into the lake. Appropriate measures were taken to clean up the spill. Removal of the helicopter's main rotors and tail rotor from the lake was accomplished immediately by a contractor.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating this incident.

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